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United States District Court
Eastern District of Washington
(Honorable Judge Rosanna Malouf Peterson)

No. 2:23-CR-00113-RMP

Defendant's Objections to the Pre-Sentence Investigation Report (PSIR)

14 Johnathan Allen, through counsel, Zachary L. Ayers of Ayers Law Firm,
15 P.L.L.C., submits the following objections, corrections, and additions to the
16 presentence report.

18 Corrections and Additions

19 - Paragraph 16 correction: Fisher did not state at trial that he and Allen were
20 business partners.
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22 - Paragraph 17 addition: neither phone number believed to be associated with Mr.
23 Allen were verified to be in the physical possession of Mr. Allen.
24
25 - Paragraph 22 correction: the arrangement to meet must be corrected to a
26 meeting between Fisher and UCA. Not all three of them. At trial, Allen was not
27 involved in the meeting as testified to by Fisher. Fisher testified that Allen did

1 not participate and wanted to get out of the car before arriving at the UCA
2 location. (ECF 129; page 44-46).
3

4 - Paragraph 59 correction: Fisher testified that the money was all his and not
5 from Allen. (ECF 128; page 270).

6 **Objections to the PSIR**

7 - **Paragraphs 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66**

8 Mr. Allen objects to paragraphs 61 through 66 because none of those
9 paragraphs are relevant to the crime of conviction, especially under U.S.S.G. §1B1.3.
10 Nor was the information in those paragraphs proven at Mr. Allen's trial. Additionally,
11 those paragraphs do not fall within the scope of the charged conduct in U.S.S.G.
12 §1B1.3. Those paragraphs unfairly prejudice Mr. Allen at sentencing in light of his
13 conviction at trial and all the events surrounding the prosecution of this case. These
14 items were excluded by the Court at trial. Those paragraphs do not reference the
15 alleged events and their subject matter is unrelated from October 27 and 28, 2022, and
16 February 7, 2023, events.
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18 These paragraphs contain statements that are unreliable and untrustworthy.
19 Those paragraphs are not within the scope of jointly undertaken criminal activity, they
20 are not in furtherance of the criminal activity alleged in the superseding indictment,
21 and the statements in ¶61-66 are not reasonably foreseeable in connection with the
22 criminal activity charged against Mr. Allen. Additionally, there is no common scheme
23 related to the events of October 27, and 28 2022, and February 7, 2023.
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1 The statements made in those paragraphs do not have the same individuals
2 involved and do not identify those individuals the Facebook account is interacting
3 with.
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5 - **Paragraph 73, 77, 80, 184**

6 Mr. Allen objects to paragraph 73, 77, 80, and 184. The firearm enhancement
7 from U.S.S.G. 2D1.1(b)(1) does not apply because no firearm was proven to be in Mr.
8 Allen's possession for the drug transactions on October 27, 2022. Firearms were not
9 present on Mr. Allen during the events of October 27, 2022, whether it was Quinton
10 Brown's sale of drugs to Joshua Fisher, or Joshua Fisher's sale of drugs to the
11 undercover agents.
12

14 *United States v. Gomez*, 6 F.4th 992 (9th Cir. 2021) explains why this enhancement
15 does not apply to Mr. Allen. Under §2D1.1(b)(1), “[i]f a dangerous weapon (including
16 a firearm) was possessed,” a two-level enhancement is applicable. *United States v.*
17 *Gomez*, 6 F.4th 992, 1008 (9th Cir. 2021); (citing U.S.S.G. §2D1.1(b)(1). The Ninth
18 Circuit has interpreted §2D1.1(b)(1) broadly and have held possession of the firearm
19 to be actual or constructive, *United States v. Lopez-Sandoval*, 146 F.3d 712, 714-15 (9th
20 Cir. 1998), and that the firearms and drugs do not have to “be found in proximity to
21 each other,” *United States v. Willard*, 919 F.2d 606, 610 (9th Cir. 1990). “Even when
22 defendants were arrested miles away from the firearms stored at their homes or places
23 of business, we have held that the defendants possessed weapons during the
24 commission of the drug-trafficking offenses for purposes of this sentencing
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1 enhancement. *United States v. Lopez-Sandoval*, 146 F.3d at 715; *See also United States v.*
 2 *Steward*, 926 F.2d 899, 901-02 (9th Cir. 1991).” *United States v. Gomez*, 6 F.4th 992, 1008
 3 (9th Cir. 2021)

5 Application Note 11 to §2D1.1(b)(1) provides “[t]he enhancement should
 6 be applied if the weapon was present, unless it is clearly improbable that
 7 the weapon was connected with the offense.” U.S.S.G. §2D1.1(b)(1)
 8 comment n.11(A). “For example, the enhancement would not be applied
 9 if the defendant, arrested at the defendant’s residence had an unloaded
 10 hunting rifle in the closet. *Id.* The application note also states that this
 11 enhancement “reflects the increased danger of violence when drug
 12 traffickers possess weapons.” *Id.* We have also interpreted this application
 13 note broadly. In determining whether the weapon “was connected with the
 14 offense,” *id.*, we have concluded that the “offense” in this context refers
 15 to “the entire course of criminal conduct,” not just the crime of conviction,
 16 *Willard*, 919 F.2d at 609-10. This is consistent with the broad language of
 17 §1B1.3, which provides that specific offense characteristics such as
 18 §2D1.1(b)(1) take into account all acts and omissions that occurred “during
 19 the commission of the offense of conviction, in preparation for that
 20 offense, or in the court of attempting to avoid detection or responsibility
 21 for that offense.” U.S.S.G. §1B1.3(1)(B). We have also held that the fact
 22 that a firearm was unloaded does not make it “clearly improbable that the
 23 weapon was connected to” the drug offense. *Lopez-Sandoval*, 146 F.3d at
 24 716 (cleaned up).

25 *United States v. Gomez*, 6 F.4th 992, 1008-09 (9th Cir. 2021).

26 In *Gomez*, the defendant possessed a firearm to sell and that weapon was present
 27 during the drug-trafficking offense which was *bundled together*. *United States v. Gomez*, 6
 28 F.4th 992, 1010 (9th Cir. 2021). (*emphasis added*).

29 In Mr. Allen’s case, he did not possess a firearm on October 27, 2022, for the
 30 drug conspiracy that took place between the drugs being handed from Brown to
 31 Fisher and Fisher to the undercover agents. Looking to the firearm sale of October 28,
 32 2022, and the firearm possessed by Mr. Allen at the time of his arrest on February 7,

1 2023, these situations *are separate and not bundled together* with the drug transactions of
2 October 27, 2022. (*emphasis added*). The firearm sale by Fisher to the undercover agents
3 on October 28, 2022, is not bundled together with the drug transaction of October 27,
4 2022, because they are on different days, with different events and no connection
5 between the sale of any controlled substances, thus making it clearly improbable that
6 there was any connection of a firearm with controlled substances. Therefore, this
7 enhancement should not be applied under the guidelines.
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10 The corrected calculation should be:
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12 -BOL: 32
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14 -Specific Offense Characteristics: 0
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16 -Adjusted Offense Level: 32
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18 -Total Offense Level: 32
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20 -Criminal History Category: V
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22 -Guideline Range: 188-235 Months
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24 DATED this 16th day of January 2024.
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26 Respectfully Submitted,
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28
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Service Certificate

I hereby certify that on January 16, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF System which will send notification of such filing to the following: David Herzog, Assistant United States Attorney.

s/Zachary L. Ayers
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